Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a receiver for receiving and displaying television programming;

at least one sensor for sensing a physical reaction by the viewer viewing the displayed programming and generating a signal representative of the physical reaction; ~~and~~

a processor for receiving and analyzing the signal to determine if it can be associated with at least one recognizable viewer emotional response, whereupon the processor associates the recognizable emotional response with a descriptive information relating to a program that was being displayed when the physical reaction was sensed, to provide a viewer preference relating to the descriptive information; ~~and~~

a memory device for storing the association between the programming description and sensed reaction as the viewer preference;

a monitoring system that monitors subsequent programs which become available to be displayed;

a recommender that is configured to recommend subsequent programs based on the viewer preference; and

a system for notifying and/or presenting a subsequent program based on the viewer preference.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor comprises a plurality of sensors.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 3, further comprising a sensor-signal receiver for receiving the signals generated by at least some of the plurality of sensors.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the sensor-signal receiver combines the received sensor signals so that the processor may analyze an aggregation of sensors signals.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor further comprises a video image capturing device.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising a video processor in communication with the video camera, the video processor comprising an image library for comparing to video images received from the video camera.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising a video recorder for recording the images captured by the video camera.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an environmental sensor for sensing a change in the viewing environment and transmitting environmental information to the processor for use in analyzing viewer physical reactions.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of assessing viewer response to television programming that includes one or more distinct segments, said method comprising:

        providing a receiver on which the viewer may view the programming;

        monitoring at least one viewer physical condition;

        associating the at least one viewer physical condition with a viewer response;

        determining when a program segment is being received that corresponds to a pre-selected viewer response previously associated with the at least one viewer physical condition;

        associating a viewer preference relating to the program segment based on the viewer response; ~~and~~

        determining predicted preferences relating to subsequent programming based on the viewer preference; and

        notifying and/or presenting a subsequent program based on the viewer preference.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring a plurality of viewer physical conditions.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one physical condition includes a change in the physical condition relative to a baseline level, the change being perceived during the monitoring.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one physical condition includes body temperature.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one physical condition includes heart rate.

16   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the monitoring is performed by an image-capturing device for capturing images of the viewer viewing the programming.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, including providing a video processor for receiving the video images captured by the video camera and comparing them to reference data to interpret a viewer movement represented in the captured images.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including:

determining at least one distinguishing characteristic of a displayed programming segment;

associating a viewer response corresponding to a physical condition perceived during the display of the programming segment with a viewer preference level; and

applying the preference level to enhance program selection.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein program selection is enhanced by providing a notification that specified future programming will contain at least one segment possessing the at least one distinguishing characteristic.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program selection is enhanced by inserting into a program a segment possessing the at least one distinguishing characteristic.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program distinguishing characteristic is derived from electronic program guide (EPG) information provided with the television programming.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program segment distinguishing characteristic is derived from audio, video and text signal properties of television programming.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, including:

providing a recorder coupled to the receiver to record selected program segments; and

automatically recording the program segment that corresponds to a preselected viewer response.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, including:

extracting information related to the program segment that corresponds to a pre-selected viewer response from the television programming; and

automatically displaying the information on the receiver.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one viewer physical condition includes a biometric response.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the biometric response includes galvactic skin response.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring a visually observable response.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the visually observable response is related to the gaze of the viewer.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the visually observable response includes a direction of the viewer's gaze.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the visually observable response includes a duration of the viewer's gaze in a certain direction before changing to a different direction.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the visually observable response includes a furrowing of the viewer's brow.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the monitoring includes measuring a depth of any furrows in the viewer's brow, tending to indicate confusion or lack of understanding.

33.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 11, wherein the associating of the at least one viewer physical condition with a viewer response is performed at least in part by using a Hidden Markov technique.

34.　(Currently Amended)　A method of assessing listener response to audio programming comprising:

providing a receiver having a speaker for presenting the audio programming to the listener;

monitoring at least one listener physical condition associating the at least one listener physical condition with a viewer emotional response;

associating the viewer emotional response with a user preference relating to the audio programming; ~~and~~

recommending subsequent audio programming based on the user preference; and

notifying and/or presenting the subsequent audio programming based on the user preference.

35.　(Cancelled)

36.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 34, wherein the audible response includes listener laughter.

37.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 34, wherein the audible response includes an inflection of a listener's vocalization, tending to indicate a question has been vocalized.

38.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 34, wherein the associating of the at least one listener physical condition with a viewer emotional response is performed at least in part by using a Hidden Markov Model technique.

39.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 34, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring an audibly observable response.

40.　(Previously Presented)　The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor includes a microphone for picking up vocalizations made by the viewer.